Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping materials, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

a. a lower support structure;

b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines; and

d. the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position and the spines can hold landscape material.

2. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:

a substantial number of the distal ends of the spines do not touch other spines.

3. (currently amended) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:

the distal portions of the spines have a designated width and the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is substantially greater than the width of the spines.

4. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein;

when the plurality of spines are in the rest position, the distal portions of most of the spines are disposed at an acute angle to the lower support structure.

5. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:

said plurality of spines are arranged in discrete rows.

6. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:

said elongated distal portions of said spines are generally directed in a similar direction.

7. (currently amended) ~~The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:~~ A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping materials, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

a. a lower support structure;

b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines;

d. the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position; and

e. said base portions of said spines are wider than said elongated distal portions.

8. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein: said distal ends of said spines come to a point.

9. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 7, wherein: said spines have a triangular shape.

10. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein: the distal portions of the spines are curved.

11. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein: the distal portions of the spines are curled.

12. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein: the distal portions of the spines are angled nearly parallel to the lower support structure.

13. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:

the lower support structure is landscape fabric material and the landscape fabric material substantially blocks the transmission of sunlight through the landscape fabric material.

14. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:

the lower support structure does not block the transmission of sunlight.

15. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:

a. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines;

b. said plurality of strips being joined together.

16. (currently amended) ~~The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 15, further comprising:~~ A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping materials, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

a. a lower support structure;

b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines;

d. wherein the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position; and

e. wherein said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined together;

[[a]] f. a plurality of second strips that do not have spines;

[[b]] g. a sheet of landscape fabric material; and

[[c]] h. said sheet of landscape fabric material is disposed between said plurality of strips that carry the spines and the plurality of second strips that do not have spines.

17. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 16, wherein:

said second strips have pegs which are received in holes in the strips carrying the spines.

18. (currently amended) ~~The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 15, wherein:~~ A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping materials, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

a. a lower support structure;

b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines;

d. wherein the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position;

e. wherein said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined together;

[[a]] f. wherein said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship;

[[b]] g. wherein each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines has a first end and a second end; and

[[c]] h. wherein selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips.

19. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 18, wherein:

selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support structure.

20. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 19, further comprising:

a. a second landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

1. a lower support structure;

2. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

3. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines, and the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position; and

4. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined together, said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship, each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines having a first end and a second end, and selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips, and the selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support structure; and wherein

b. the first and second landscape/erosion control structures are arranged so that the second ends of the strips carrying the spines of the first landscape/erosion control structure are adjacent to the first ends of the strips carrying the spines of the second landscape/erosion control structure.

21. (currently amended) ~~The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 2, wherein~~ A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping materials, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

a. a lower support structure;

b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines;

d. the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position;

e. a substantial number of the distal ends of the spines do not touch other spines; and

f. the distal portions of the spines have a designated width and the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is substantially greater than the width of the spines.

22. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein; when the plurality of spines are in the rest position, the distal portions of most of the spines are disposed at an acute angle to the lower support structure.

23. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 22, wherein: said elongated distal portions of said spines are generally directed in a similar direction.

24. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 23, wherein: the distal portions of the spines are curved.

25. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 24, wherein: the distal portions of the spines are curled.

26. (original) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 25, wherein:

the lower support structure is landscape fabric material and the landscape fabric material substantially blocks the transmission of sunlight through the landscape fabric material.

27. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:

said plurality of spines are arranged in discrete rows.

28. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:

said base portions of said spines are wider than said elongated distal portions.

29. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:

said distal ends of said spines come to a point.

30. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 28, wherein:

said spines have a triangular shape.

31. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:

the distal portions of the spines are angled nearly parallel to the lower support structure.

32. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:

the lower support structure does not block the transmission of sunlight.

33. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein:

a. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines;

b. said plurality of strips being joined together.

34. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 33, further comprising:

a. a plurality of second strips that do not have spines;

b. a sheet of landscape fabric material; and

c. said sheet of landscape fabric material is disposed between said plurality of strips that carry the spines and the plurality of second strips that do not have spines.

35. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 34, wherein:

said second strips have pegs which are received in holes in the strips carrying the spines.

36. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 33, wherein:

a. said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship;

b. each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines has a first end and a second end; and

c. selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips.

37. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 36, wherein:

selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support structure.

38. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 37, further comprising:

a. a second landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

1. a lower support structure;

2. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

3. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines, and the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines

stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position; and

4. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined together, said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship, each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines having a first end and a second end, and selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips, and the selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support structure; and wherein

b. the first and second landscape/erosion control structures are arranged so that the second ends of the strips carrying the spines of the first landscape/erosion control structure are adjacent to the first ends of the strips carrying the spines of the second landscape/erosion control structure.

39. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein: the spines are greater than or equal to 0.5 inches in height.

40. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein: the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is substantially 2 inches or greater.

41. (new) A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping materials such as mulch over a selected portion of ground, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

a. a lower support structure placed over a selected portion of ground;

b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines;

d. the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position; and

e. mulch placed over the lower support structure and resting on the lower support structure and in contact with the spines.

42. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein; when the plurality of spines are in the rest position, the distal portions of most of the spines are disposed at an acute angle to the lower support structure.

43. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 42, wherein: said elongated distal portions of said spines are generally directed in a similar direction.

44. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 43, wherein: the distal portions of the spines are curved.

45. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 44, wherein: the distal portions of the spines are curled.

46. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 45, wherein: the lower support structure is landscape fabric material and the landscape fabric material substantially blocks the transmission of sunlight through the landscape fabric material.

47. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein: said plurality of spines are arranged in discrete rows.

48. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein: said base portions of said spines are wider than said elongated distal portions.

49. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:
said distal ends of said spines come to a point.

50. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 48, wherein:
said spines have a triangular shape.

51. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are angled nearly parallel to the lower support structure.

52. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:
the lower support structure does not block the transmission of sunlight.

53. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein:

a. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines;

b. said plurality of strips being joined together.

54. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 53, further comprising:

a. a plurality of second strips that do not have spines;

b. a sheet of landscape fabric material; and

c. said sheet of landscape fabric material is disposed between said plurality of strips that carry the spines and the plurality of second strips that do not have spines.

55. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 54, wherein:
said second strips have pegs which are received in holes in the strips carrying the spines.

56. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 53, wherein:

a. said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship;

b. each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines has a first end and a second end; and

c. selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips.

57. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 56, wherein:

selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support structure.

58. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 57, further comprising:

a. a second landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

1. a lower support structure;

2. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

3. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines, and the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position; and

4. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined together, said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship, each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines having a first end and a second end, and selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips, and the selected adjacent pairs

of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support structure; and wherein

b. the first and second landscape/erosion control structures are arranged so that the second ends of the strips carrying the spines of the first landscape/erosion control structure are adjacent to the first ends of the strips carrying the spines of the second landscape/erosion control structure.

59. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein: the spines are greater than or equal to 0.5 inches in height.

60. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 41, wherein: the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is substantially 2 inches or greater.

61. (new) A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping materials such as mulch over a selected portion of ground, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

a. a lower support structure placed over a selected portion of ground;

b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines;

d. the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position; and

e. a substantial number of the distal portions of the spines do not touch other spines; and

f. the distal portions of the spines have a designated width and the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is substantially greater than the width of the spines.

62. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein;

when the plurality of spines are in the rest position, the distal portions of most of the spines are disposed at an acute angle to the lower support structure.

63. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 62, wherein: said elongated distal portions of said spines are generally directed in a similar direction.

64. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 63, wherein: the distal portions of the spines are curved.

65. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 64, wherein: the distal portions of the spines are curled.

66. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 65, wherein: the lower support structure is landscape fabric material and the landscape fabric material substantially blocks the transmission of sunlight through the landscape fabric material.

67. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein: said plurality of spines are arranged in discrete rows.

68. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein: said base portions of said spines are wider than said elongated distal portions.

69. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein: said distal ends of said spines come to a point.

70. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 68, wherein: said spines have a triangular shape.

71. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein: the distal portions of the spines are angled nearly parallel to the lower support structure.

72. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein: the lower support structure does not block the transmission of sunlight.

73. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein:

a. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines;

b. said plurality of strips being joined together.

74. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 73, further comprising:

a. a plurality of second strips that do not have spines;

b. a sheet of landscape fabric material; and

c. said sheet of landscape fabric material is disposed between said plurality of strips that carry the spines and the plurality of second strips that do not have spines.

75. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 74, wherein: said second strips have pegs which are received in holes in the strips carrying the spines.

76. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 73, wherein:

a. said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship;

b. each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines has a first end and a second end; and

c. selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips.

77. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 76, wherein: selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support structure.

78. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 77, further comprising:

a. a second landscape/erosion control structure comprising:

1. a lower support structure;

2. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;

3. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines, and the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position; and

4. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined together, said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship, each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines having a first end and a second end, and selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips, and the selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support structure; and wherein

b. the first and second landscape/erosion control structures are arranged so that the second ends of the strips carrying the spines of the first landscape/erosion control structure are adjacent to the first ends of the strips carrying the spines of the second landscape/erosion control structure.

79. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein: the spines are greater than or equal to 0.5 inches in height.

80. (new) The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 61, wherein: the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is substantially 2 inches or greater.